9. Shivaji Peth-Jat	Distt.	Sangli
10. Umbarde		(Upgradation of EDBO to DSO)
11. Servade		(Upgradation of EDSO to DSO)
12. Khardi, Chadanagar	Distt.	Pune
13. Dattawadi	Distt.	Pune
14. Dahanukar Colony	Distt.	Pune
15. Kurha		(Upgradation of FDSO to DSO) Distt. Amraoti.

PCOs in Punjab

6. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs functioning in Punjab, district-wise, at present;

(b) the criteria followed for installation of PCOs; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to install more PCOs particularly in the border areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, The information is furnished in the enclosed statement (*See below*).

(b) STD PCOs are allotted to the educated unemployed persons by the PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official membes one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for Urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen and War widows.
4. Retired OOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) More number of PCOs are being installed in the State of Punjab by way of augmenting/adding equipped capacities of different exchanges including the border areas subject to availability of equipment and funds.

Statement

Name of Telecom.	Local	PCOs STD
1. Amritsar	859	1351
2. Bhthinda	253	514
3. Chandigarh	662	1646
4. Ferozepur	888	950
5. Hoshiarpur	286	952
6. Jallandhar	562	2504
7. Ludhiana	1480	2547
8. Patiala	455	922
9. Pathankot	162	675
10. Ropar	89	284
11. Sangrur	499	649

STD/ISD Booths in Punjab

7. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD booths functioning in Punjab at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite of an increase in their demand, Government

are not considering to increase the above mentioned booths in the State; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 12, 994 STD/ ISD booths are functioning in Punjab at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Project to connect Village Panchayats in Assam and N.E. Region

8. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project to connect telephonically every village Panchayat in Assam and other States of the N.E. Region, within a time-frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir. The Government has a policy to provide public telephones in all the villages of the country.

(b) and (c)

Assam Circle:-It is planned to connect all the villages including Panchayat Villages in Assam by the end of IXth Plan. As on 31.10.97, total number of villages covered in Assam is 9127 out of 22,224.

2093 Gram Panchayats out of 2485, have already been covered by public telephone facility.

North East Circle: It is planned to connect all the villages including Panchayat villages in North East circle by the end of IXth plan. As on 31.10.97, in North East circle, total 3245 No. of villages have been covered with Public telephone facilities out of 14197 villages.

Total number of Village Panchayats in North East circle is 4347 and 2370 Panchayats have been connected.

बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लगाये गये टॉवर

9. **श्री जर्नादन यादव:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कुल कितने टॉवर लगाये गये हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि राज्य में जितने टॉवर लगाये गये हैं, उनमें से कोई भी काम नहीं कर रहा है और उन टॉवरों में लगायी गयी मशीन खराब पड़ी हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो खराब मशीनों को कब तक बदल दिया जायेगा, यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) ग्रामीण सार्वजनिक टेलीफोनों की व्यवस्था करने के लिए बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कुल 7, 476 टॉवर संस्थापित किए गए हैं;

(ख) जी नहीं, 12.11.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार केवल 72 बेस स्टेशन तथा 2,124 आर एस यू खराब पड़े हैं।

(ग) दोषपूर्ण बेस स्टेशनों तथा आर एस यू की क्रमिक रूप से मरम्मत की जाएगी।

Capacity of Telephone Exchanges in Bihar and Orissa

10. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of persons being served under each Telephone exchange in Bihar and Orissa;

(b) the details of the national average in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the capacity of all exchanges in these States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The average number of subscribers served by each exchanges is as follows:-

Bihar	424
Orissa	290
National Average	655